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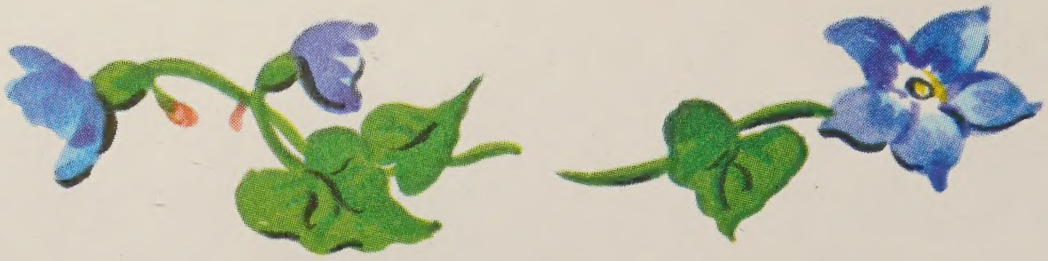
The Elves and the Shoemaker

$1.00

THIS START-RIGHT ELF BOOK IS EDUCATIONALLY SOUND
see statement opposite title page

RAND McNALLY PUBLISHER



A MESSAGE TO PARENTS & TEACHERS:

In this new series of inexpensive books for children, Rand McNally is presenting carefully selected, good literature for the very young child. Books in this series are factual, fanciful, humorous, questioning and adventurous. It is hoped that the series will provide for the masses of children whose parents might be unaware of the availability of good literature at such nominal cost. We firmly believe that the love and appreciation of literature must begin when the child is very young.

The Elves and the Shoemaker is a classic children's story woven around the golden rule. The remembering that someone has done good deeds is one of the most important behaviors children can learn. However, they will learn it best when it is not over-emphasized. So, when you read it aloud make certain that the activities of the elves are full of fun and the shoemaker and his wife full of amazement. The message will come across.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Evanston, Illinois

THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER

By Brothers Grimm

Illustrated by Esther Friend

RAND McNALLY & COMPANY · Chicago

Established 1856

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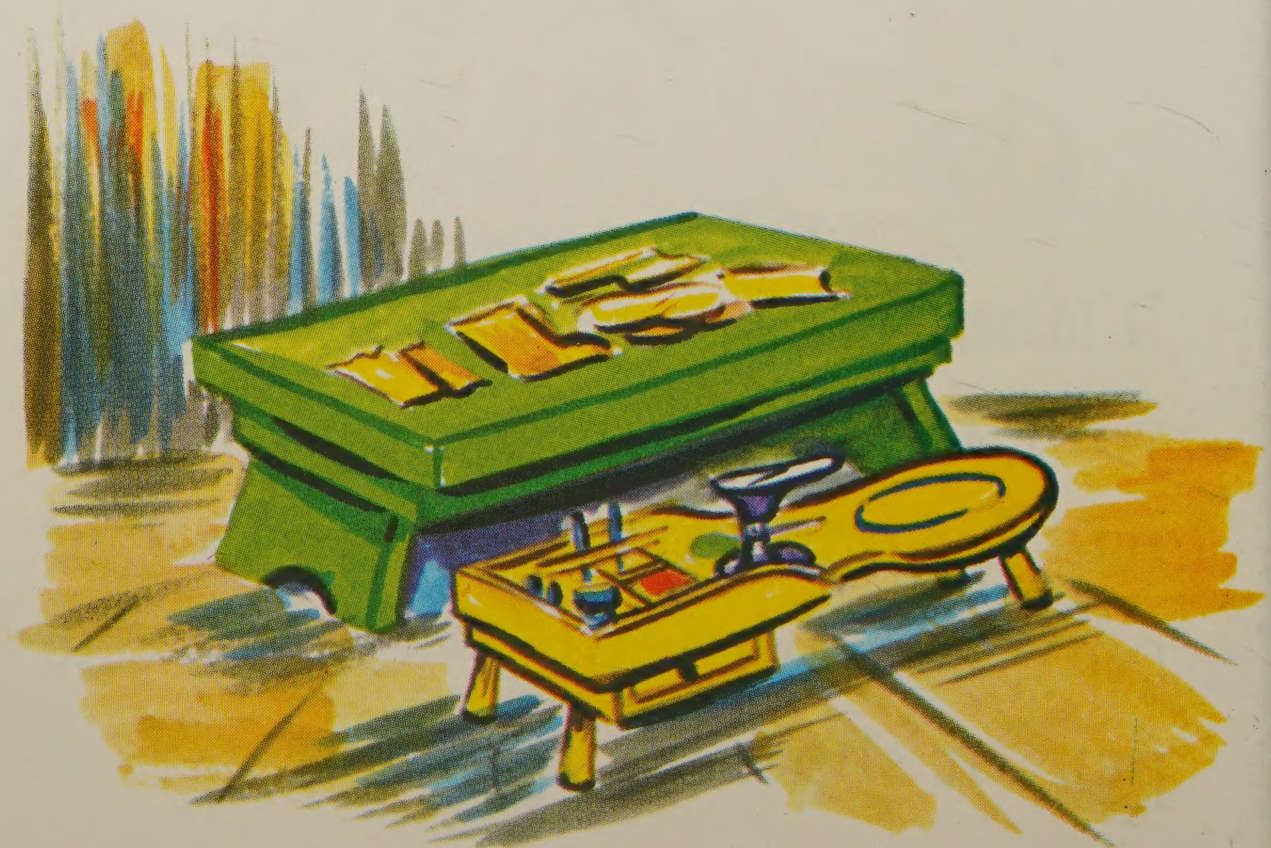
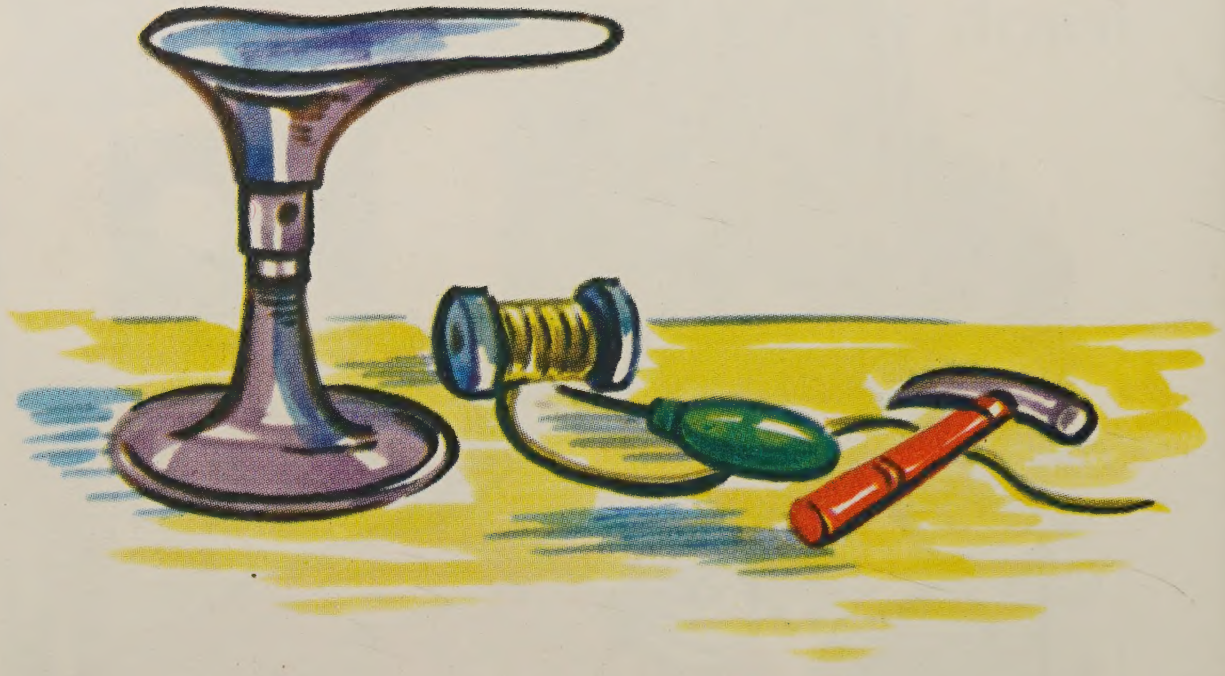
THERE WAS ONCE a Shoemaker who, through no fault of his own, had become so poor that he had only enough leather left for one pair of shoes.

In the evening he cut out the leather, intending to make it up in the morning. Then he said his prayers and lay quietly down to sleep.





In the morning he sat down to work, but behold, the pair of shoes was already made, and there they stood upon the table. The poor man was amazed and took

the shoes into his hands to look at them more closely. They were so neatly sewn that not a stitch was out of place, as if they had been made for a prize.

Presently a customer came in, and as he was very pleased with the shoes, he paid more than usual. With the money the Shoemaker was now able to buy leather for two pairs of shoes.

By evening he had his leather shaped out. When he arose the next morning he was ready to work with fresh spirit. But just as before, the shoes were standing finished on his table.

He did not wait long for buyers either. Two men came in who paid him so well that he bought material for four more pairs of shoes.

Early the next morning he found the four pairs finished, and so it continued. What he cut out at evening was finished in the morning. This went on until the Shoemaker was soon a wealthy man.

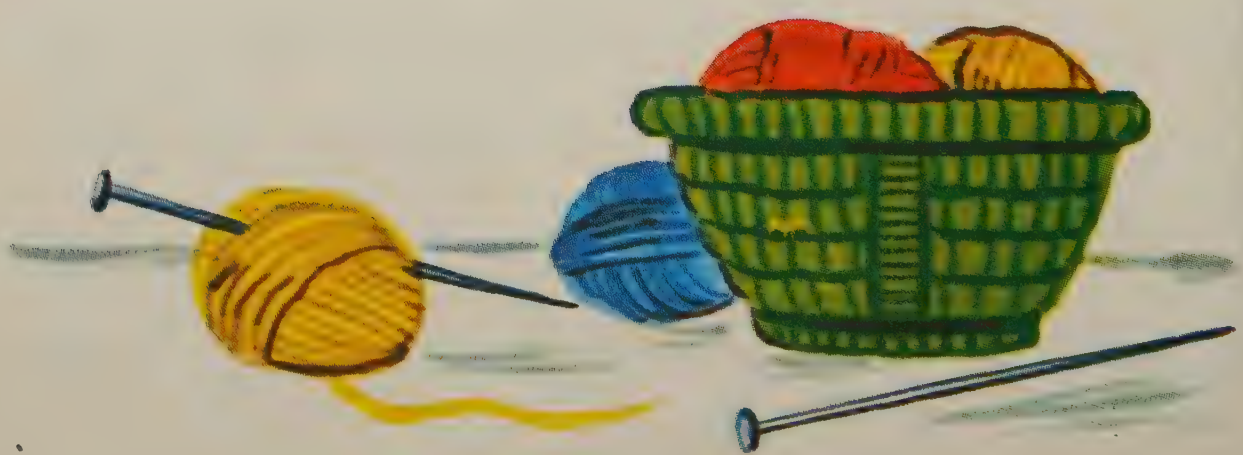
One evening, when he had cut out the usual quantity he said to his wife, "How would it be if we stayed up tonight to see who it

is that helps us so kindly?" His wife was willing, and lighted a candle. Then they hid themselves behind some clothes hanging in a corner of the room.

As soon as it was midnight two little elves came in and sat down on the Shoemaker's table. They picked up the cut-out leather and began stitching, sewing, and hammering so swiftly

and lightly that the Shoemaker could not believe his eyes. They did not stop until the shoes were finished. Then they ran swiftly away.

The following morning the wife said, "The little elves have made us rich, and we must show our gratitude. They have very little clothing and must be cold. I will make a little shirt, coat, vest, and trousers, and knit some stockings for each. And you shall make them each a pair of shoes."



The husband agreed and one evening, when all was ready, instead of cut-out leather they left the presents on the table. Then they hid to watch the results.

At midnight the elves came in, skipping about and eager to

go to work. When they saw no leather, but the charming little clothes, they were astonished and

delighted. They quickly put on their new outfits and, smoothing them down sang,

"Dressed up, happy boys are we,
Shoemakers we'll no longer be."

And so they went on hopping and jumping over the stools and chairs, and at last out of the door. They did not come again, but the Shoemaker was successful in all he did, and lived happily to the end of his days.

RAND McNALLY

START-RIGHT ELF* BOOKS

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

HELP YOUR CHILD!

The National College of Education, one of this country's leading institutions for the education of pre-primary and elementary teachers, and educational consultant for Rand McNally's Start-Right Elf Series, says:

> In this new series of inexpensive books for children, Rand McNally is presenting carefully selected, good literature for the very young child. Books in this series are factual, fanciful, humorous, questioning and adventurous. . . . We firmly believe that the love and appreciation of literature must begin when the child is very young.

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